



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG A. MINER**  
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MEMBER  
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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**TO:** Chairman Slossberg, Chairman Spallone and Government Administration and Election Committee Membership

**FROM:** State Representative Craig Miner

**DATE:** March 16, 2009

**RE:** Public Hearing Testimony on S. B. No. 839: AN ACT CONCERNING MERGERS AND CONSOLIDATIONS OF VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES.

My name is Craig Miner and I am the State Representative for the 66<sup>th</sup> District which comprises five communities in Northwest Connecticut. I am here today to testify on Senate Bill 839, specifically Section 30 proposing to merge the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners with the Department of Public Safety.

In my former life I served for almost ten years as Litchfield's First Selectman, and have first hand knowledge of the workings of the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners and the Department of Public Safety as they pertain to the handling of the state permit to carry pistols and revolvers. The Board is invaluable as a resource in the first issuance of the permit, and they remain so to the time at which a determination is made to revoke or not renew. The Department of Public Safety also plays an important role in this process as they provide valuable information about an individual's criminal history (or lack thereof) as those who endeavor to acquire a permit, and those charged with making that decision on whether to permit, work to that goal.

I understand as well as anyone here the very real and significant financial problems this state faces. I believe I understand the goal our Governor is working toward with this and the other recommendations developed around the notion of consolidation. Having said all of that, I am concerned that this merger might not be the best fit. I would urge the Government Administration and Elections Committee to consider other options that would group similar boards with similar responsibilities rather than combining the Department of Public Safety and the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners. I am fearful that a merger as proposed in Sec. 30 of this bill will not provide the appropriate separation of responsibilities, just as combining Connecticut's Judiciary with the Department of Public Safety would not.

It would be my pleasure to work with the members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee to find a better fit, so that the cost savings which precipitated the consolidation proposal will not be lost, and the procedure which has heretofore provided protection to the process and the participants will not be jeopardized.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.